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GENERAL FISHERIES COUNCIL FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM)

REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

Rome, 17-21 September 1984

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 1984

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DECISIONS, DIRECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF GFCM

Recommendations

- Introduction of STATLANT A form in 1985 (paragraph 5)
- Continuation of acoustic evaluation activities within GFCM and of collaboration with ICES (paragraphs 16 and 115)
- Priority to be given to small-scale fisheries and related socio-economic aspects (paragraph 22(i))
- Critical review of stock assessment methods (paragraph 22(ii))
- Reinforcement of sub-regional collaboration to study shared stocks (paragraphs 22 (iii) and 29)
- Programme of meetings for the intersession (paragraph 96)

Decisions and Directives

- Definition of the term "shared stocks" (paragraphs 23 and 47)
- Continuation of activity on management of coastal lagoon fisheries (paragraph 38)
- Statutory powers of the Council (paragraphs 92 to 94)
- Reappointment of Messrs. Hadj Ali Salem, Bordes and Ianev as Chairman, and first and second Vice-Chairmen, respectively, of GFCM (paragraphs 116 and 117)
- Eighteenth session, tentatively in Monaco, in September 1986 (paragraph 119)

Other Salient Matters

- Management of shared stocks (paragraph 48)
- EEC competence in the Mediterranean (paragraph 55)
- Support to the proposed Programmes of Action in the Mediterranean (paragraphs 81 to 85)
- Financial support of Italy to MEDRAP (paragraph 88)
- Interest of the Council for jelly-fish (paragraphs 99 and 100) and turtle (paragraphs 103 and 106) programmes
- Use of Arabic at GFCM sessions (paragraph 109)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Seventeenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was held from 17 to 21 September 1984 at FAO Headquarters, Rome, under the chairmanship of Mr A. Bordes (17 September) and Mr Hadj Ali Salem (18-21 September).
2. Participating in the discussions were delegates from 12 of the 19 Member States, the representatives from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and the European Economic Community, and observers from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and the International Juridical Organization. A list of participants is given in Appendix B.
3. In his opening address, Mr J.E. Carroz, Assistant Director-General of FAO (Fisheries Department), welcomed the participants and reviewed the main themes underlying the Council's work. The full text of his address is given in Appendix C.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The agenda prepared by the Secretariat was adopted after one delegation had requested the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Exercise by the Council of its Statutory Powers". The agenda is given in Appendix A.

III. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCES

A. Statistics

(a) Statistics of catch and effort

5. The Secretariat referred to the continued operation of the STATLANT system in the GFCM area; apart from some habitual non-respondents (Albania, Lebanon and Syria), and some late submissions (Greece, Italy and Spain), this was generally satisfactory. In the inter-sessional period a species list had been devised for incorporation in the STATLANT A form list which had been approved by the eighth session of the GFCM Working Party on Resource Appraisal and Fishery Statistics. It was already clear that a number of improvements could be made to this and one delegation felt that the list of species was excessively long; however, recognizing its experimental nature, the Council approved its introduction in 1985. The Council also approved the recommendation of the Working Party to stamp on the form FAO alphanumeric codes to aid with species identification.
6. The Secretariat informed that a STATLANT B form was now ready for distribution, but in view of reservations expressed in other fora concerning the value for stock assessment purposes of the data collected, the views of the Council as to its introduction were sought. It was also announced that a FISHSTAT Aquaculture form would shortly be introduced and this was generally welcomed by participants as providing valuable information on an important Mediterranean activity. FAO regularly received many requests for data on aquaculture and the collection and publication of such data had also been recommended by a Consultation on Global Fishery Statistics held recently by FAO to review the appropriateness and adequacy of its data base and Yearbook on Fishery Statistics. Among other recommendations of the consultation of relevance to the GFCM were those concerned with the collection of data on recreational fisheries and on distinguishing between artisanal and industrial catches.
7. This latter question was recognized as giving rise to a definitional problem which should be discussed at a meeting of a subsidiary body of the Council. In this connection it was agreed that the Workshop recommended by the Third Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Balearic and Gulf of Lions Statistical Divisions would be an appropriate forum.
8. The Secretariat apologized for the fact that the GFCM Statistical Bulletin No. 5 Nominal Catches 1972-82 would not be available in final form for the meeting. This was due to a change in the process for its production which involved closer links with the FAO data base from which the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics was published; this it was noted would reduce the risks of publishing conflicting series of data.

9. Several delegations referred to recent experience in the collection of data and completion of the STATLANT forms. The delegation of Tunisia said there was still difficulty in identifying species correctly as the same fish had different names in different parts of the country; there was also a difficulty in identifying precisely where the fish had been caught. The artisanal fishery presented the greatest problem since it was so dispersed and it was impossible to check at the points of sale; recordings were known to underestimate the catch and a correction of up to 40 percent had to be made.

10. In Egypt data had been reliable up to 1967, but it was difficult to place much confidence in more recent data. In 1982 a project had been initiated at a cost of fE 300 000 for the establishment of data collection centres to cover all important marine and inland fisheries. Preliminary results showed catches to be much higher than previously believed. The delegation of France referred to the recent creation of IFREMER (Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer) which had absorbed the functions of the former ISTPM and CNEXO. Reference was made to attempts to improve the reliability of the data concerning aquaculture and it was noted that these had already demonstrated that current estimates of cultivated molluscs production in recent years should be increased substantially.

11. Improvements in the collection of data in Spain were expected following the introduction of a network of computers in some 125 landing points. The delegation of Israel drew attention to the potential conflict which existed between fishermen and the administration and noted that process and results of data collection had been much improved since a sampling system had replaced attempts to record the landings of all fishermen. In Italy fisheries production was recorded at the wholesale marketing stage but as there were considerable quantities of fish not passing through such markets, estimations were made by the Central Fishery Statistical Institute (ISTAT). It was also noted that under the PESTAT programme a former survey of fishing vessels had been made in order to introduce fishing licences so as to regulate effort, and on the basis of this a sample survey for catch and effort data had been developed. Article 5 of Law 41 makes provision for reorganization of the national system of fishery statistics at the central and peripheral levels. Implementation of this article has already started.

(b) Economic statistics

12. The Secretariat noted that the term socio-economic covered a wide range of subjects, information on some of which such as "vessels" and "fishermen" was collected regularly by FAO. It was often the case, however, that specific problems needed ad hoc enquiries to produce the required information. In this connection it was noted that in France a study of the artisanal fisheries is underway since 1984 in cooperation between IFREMER and the Universities of Montpellier and Aix-Marseille II. A better understanding of the socio-economic conditions under which a fishery operated helped to assess the effect of management measures. The French delegation stated that, in its opinion, socio-economic criteria were of particular importance in defining a resource management policy and that they should be examined primarily from the qualitative rather than the quantitative point of view.

13. A general view was that the purpose of economic data was to examine how sound the fisheries sector was and to chart the interrelationship between the fisheries sector and the national economy. It was noted that this often resolved itself into a study of the foreign exchange implications, in which case the artisanal fisheries were the least costly.

B. Assessment of Resources

(a) Acoustic methods for detection and abundance estimation

14. The Secretariat presented the report of the technical consultation (see document GFCM/XVII/84/5 - Report of the Technical Consultation on Acoustic Methods for Fish Detection and Abundance Estimation)^{1/}, which was held in Palma de Mallorca from

^{1/} The list of documents presented at the session is given in Appendix D

8 to 12 November 1982. It was recalled that this consultation had been organized only a few months after the major ICES/FAO Symposium on Fisheries Acoustics, held in Bergen, Norway, in June 1982, and that therefore methods and equipment presented at the Symposium had formed the major part of the agenda. Strong emphasis had been laid on calibration with standard spheres in theory and practice, while new equipment had been demonstrated. The use of an echosimulator for training purposes had also been demonstrated. In addition papers had been presented on live fish calibration, comparing methods applied in a number of countries, and on intercalibration between three research vessels that had operated in the GFCM area. Results of acoustic surveys carried out in the Adriatic (by Italy and Yugoslavia), the Alboran Sea (by Morocco and Spain) and in Algerian and Tunisian waters by the R/V DR FRIDTJOF NANSEN were also discussed.

15. The Secretariat recalled that the ICES/FAO Symposium on Fisheries Acoustics had resulted in the establishment of a new Working Group on Fisheries Acoustics Science and Technology (FAST) under the ICES Fish Capture Committee. Upon the request of the technical consultation the GFCM Secretariat had investigated the possibility for acoustic experts from the GFCM area to participate fully in the meetings of the FAST Working Group. ICES had welcomed this participation and several GFCM acoustic experts had already actively taken part in two FAST Working Group meetings in 1983 and 1984.

16. The Council stressed however that its activities on acoustic methods for fish detection and abundance estimation were very specific and somewhat different from those of ICES; it nevertheless acknowledged the importance of cooperation and collaboration among acoustic experts of GFCM and ICES and decided to reword the recommendation contained in paragraph 11 of the report of the technical consultation as follows:

"The seventeenth session of the GFCM after reviewing the report of the Technical Consultation on Acoustic Methods for Fish Detection and Abundance Estimation held in November 1982, recommends that specific Mediterranean problems of stock evaluation through acoustic methods continue to be examined by technical consultations organized by the GFCM; it further recommends that experts on acoustic methods from the GFCM area seek full cooperation and collaboration with acoustic experts elsewhere, in particular with the members of the ICES Working Group on Fisheries Acoustics Science and Technology (FAST)."

17. The report of the technical consultation was adopted taking into account the reworded recommendation.

(b) Resource assessment at regional and sub-regional levels

18. The Secretariat briefly presented document GFCM/XVII/84/8 entitled "Progress Achieved and Future Activities in the Field of Resource Assessment: a Summary of the Conclusions of the Last Technical Consultations" (see Appendix E), summarizing the progress made in the field of resource assessment and underlining future activities proposed by the various technical consultations which had met during the intersessional period, as well as those contained in the report by Jones "Problems of Stock Assessment in the Adriatic, Sicily Strait, Tunisian Waters and the Aegean Sea" (GFCM/XVII/84/Inf.3). In particular, the Secretariat drew attention to the fact that during the intersessional period technical consultations had been held on stock assessment in the Adriatic (Fano, June 1983), and in the Balearic and Gulf of Lions statistical divisions (Sète, November 1983), as well as another consultation on red coral resources (Palma de Mallorca, December 1983).

19. There has been considerable progress as concerns both the sub-regions and stocks covered by the consultations. The assessments have been updated; baseline data has been assembled and compiled; analytical assessment methods have been introduced; the number of trawl surveys carried out in the region has increased considerably and sub-regional synthesis on resources have been or are about to be published. Progress is marked by more and more detailed information being made available to the Council's Member States, this information being geared to solving the problems of fisheries management and development.

20. During the last intersessional period, a number of activities have been undertaken in the western Mediterranean sub-region in line with the Council's recommendations:

- (i) Morocco (ISPM) and Spain (IEO) have been involved, since 1982, in assessment of their respective pelagic stocks in the Alboran Sea using acoustic methods.
- (ii) Algerian scientists from CROP have spent a period in the Palma de Mallorca Laboratory (IEO) with a view to improve standardization of age reading on sardine otoliths.
- (iii) A Spanish scientist from IEO visited the fish laboratory at Montpellier University and IFREMER's station at Sète, in order to refine protein analysis techniques using electrophoretic methods to determine stock location.

21. Considerable progress has been made in some countries in the area of small-scale fisheries with there now being general awareness of the importance of this resource.

22. Endorsing the report (GFCM/XVII/84/4) of the Eighth Session of the Working Party on Resource Appraisal and Fishery Statistics (Rome, July 1984), the Council recommended:

- (i) that priority be given to small-scale fisheries and to related socio-economic aspects (paragraph 7 of the report);
- (ii) that all stock assessment methods be critically reviewed (paragraphs 20 and 21 of the report);
- (iii) that everything be done to ensure that, in the case of shared stocks, the studies undertaken are given the necessary sub-regional dimension to allow collaboration to be as effective as possible.

23. The Council then moved on to discuss the terminology to be used to designate stocks whose life cycle takes place both inside and outside a coastal State's territorial waters, whether this migration brings them into the high seas or into the waters of a neighbouring country. It was agreed that the term "shared stocks (or resources)" should be retained for the time being, on the understanding that it does not cover purely national stocks which happen to be exploited by two countries within the framework of joint ventures.

24. The reports of the technical consultations were also adopted. With regard to the recommendation in paragraph 40 of the Third Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Balearic and Gulf of Lions Statistical Divisions which recommended that STATLANT forms be checked and corrected where necessary by national laboratories before being transmitted to FAO, the French delegation declared that it would try to apply this procedure as widely as possible, administrative difficulties allowing.

25. Regarding the possibility of setting up a regional project (paragraph 12), the Council, which had already recommended this at previous sessions, postponed discussion on the matter until the agenda item dealing specifically with this problem was reached.

26. With regard to the eastern Mediterranean, several delegations remarked that the state of resources and the marked changes in species composition which have occurred in this region made a sub-regional consultation all the more necessary. The Council expressed agreement with this opinion and recommended that a Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Eastern Mediterranean be held. The Egyptian delegation transmitted to the Council an invitation from its Government to host this meeting at an early date, with all Member States in the region being invited to it. It specifically requested that the Secretariat give assistance in the organization of the Consultation.

27. The Greek delegation informed the Council of the progress made in their country. Two research vessels had been built and would be used to assess pelagic and demersal stocks.

28. The Bulgarian delegation repeated its wish for the Technical Consultation on Black Sea Resources to be held as recommended by the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Council. It mentioned that both Romania and the USSR wished to participate in the meeting on shared Black Sea stocks. It thanked the Secretariat for all that it had done to try and arrange this consultation, and requested it to continue its efforts.

29. Among the areas where considerable progress still needs to be made, the various technical consultations and the Working Party were all agreed on how important it was to strengthen collaboration in the field of assessment of shared stocks, in particular with regard to the coordination of pelagic and trawl surveys.

30. The Council, being fully aware of the seriousness of the problem and the handicap which the present situation creates in the management of shared stocks, stated that it wished to see this problem dealt with in more detail under item 7.1 of the Agenda concerning regional collaboration.

IV. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

A. Limitation of Mesh Size and Regulation of Effort

31. The Secretariat presented the report (GFCM/XVII/84/9) of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Resource Management (Rome, July 1984). In line with the Council's recommendations, the Committee concentrated largely on the practical and theoretical problems posed by stocks shared by several countries. In addition, the Committee reviewed the progress that had been made in regulating fishing effort and limiting mesh size.

32. With regard to the regulation of effort, the Committee also examined in detail the experience of Cyprus where increased protection of juveniles by extending the closed season had led to stock abundance and national production doubling in less than two years. Since most of the Council's Members were already aware of this experiment as it had been described in detail in the report under review, the Council did not deem it necessary to discuss the matter further.

33. The Council then went on to discuss the problem of resource allocation at national level (paragraphs 45-57 of the report of the Committee on Resource Management) and, in particular, aspects relating to conflicts between various national users of the resource.

34. A preliminary survey of conflicts in the northern Mediterranean (France, Greece, Italy and Spain) had been carried out at the request of the Secretariat, by a consultant recruited with the help of EEC funding. A short extract of the consultant's final report (which had already been presented to the Committee on Resource Management) outlining the main conflicts in the Mediterranean was presented to the Council (document GFCM/XVII/84/10).

35. Referring to the detailed report dealing specifically with France (which had only been submitted to the French authorities for their opinion and had not been given wider distribution by the Council), the French delegation declared that it had serious reservations about the quality of the document. The delegation considered the report as being primarily descriptive, extremely superficial and often inaccurate; it considered that the relative economic weight of the various fishery sectors and the relative importance of the conflicts had not been properly assessed, that the supposed causes of conflicts and the evaluation of the effects of State aid on fleet development were incorrect, to take but a few examples.

36. Consequently, the French delegation declared that it would not adopt paragraphs 45 to 50 (inclusive) of the report of the Committee on Resource Management, referring specifically to the conclusions of the study.

37. The Secretariat noted the French delegations's criticisms. However, it reminded the Council that, for technical reasons, the study had had to be carried out in a very short time, and using local collaboration. It went on to say that it was well aware of the preliminary nature of the report, the "sensitive" nature of the conclusions of the various

national reports and the need to confirm these conclusions by more detailed studies before finally submitting them to the Council. It had therefore decided to restrict the detailed reports to just the countries concerned and to the EEC, and to present the Council with only a general outline of the conflicts.

B. Coastal Management and Interactions between the various Fisheries

38. The Secretariat presented a brief history of this activity and summarized the major conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Expert Consultation on the Management of Coastal Lagoon Fisheries (see document GFCM/XVII/84/11). The proposed continuation of this activity as recommended by the expert consultation, the production of a manual of methods for the management of coastal lagoon fisheries as a manual series, was presented in brief outline.

39. Comments on this activity focused on information and education of decision makers as important factors of success in coastal lagoon management. In this regard, one means to provide concerted information that has recently been adopted in France in Languedoc-Roussillon, is the formation of a commission in which all concerned scientific organizations are represented. The commission needs to consider important problems and thus, acting jointly for all of the organizations, will be able to provide good advice on problem solving.

40. Another finding of the expert consultation that received brief comment was the importance of socio-economic data in lagoon management.

41. In connection with management conflicts in coastal lagoons - fisheries versus aquaculture - a review of France's efforts to develop shellfish culture in the open-sea was given. In brief after years of research the most serious of the technical problems have been solved; production from experimental structures which will reach 500 t in 1984, is expected to rise to 2 000-3 000 t by 1988. Nevertheless, there are many problems to be solved on development of open-sea culture.

42. The Italian delegation observed that open-sea shellfish culture has much in common with artificial reefs. The Council recommended that a Technical Consultation on Open-Sea Shellfish Culture in Association with Artificial Reefs be organized during the inter-sessional period. All delegations which took the floor supported this proposal, noting the different functions and management benefits arising from artificial reefs. However the Council noted the great number of meetings likely to be scheduled for the inter-sessional period and decided that the consultation would be organized if necessary funds and man-power could be warranted.

C. Red Coral

43. The report of the Technical Consultation on Red Coral Resources of the Western Mediterranean and their Rational Exploitation was presented to the Council by the Spanish delegation. The meeting was declared to have been a success. Bringing together as it had specialists from all sectors (research, exploitation and marketing), the consultation had enabled red coral's importance, which had been underestimated in the past, to be re-assessed, and the scientific foundations of national management to be laid. Research programmes are being developed in Spain, and many Mediterranean countries are showing increasing interest in the exploitation of this resource.

44. The Council then examined the Consultation's proposal to set up a Working Party on Red Coral. Several delegations declared that they were strongly in favour of pursuing activities on red coral within the Council.

45. The Council therefore recommended that, at an appropriate time, a second technical consultation be organized on assessment and survey methods, age determination, fishing techniques, etc. The Spanish delegation declared its willingness to host again the consultation if no other country invited it.

46. The Council did not consider it was the right time to put in a request for red coral to be included in Annex II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), since there was not enough data yet for a definite decision to be reached.

V. PROBLEMS OF SHARED STOCKS

47. The Secretariat introduced the item as presented in the report of the fifth session of the Committee on Resource Management held in July 1984. The attention of the Council was drawn to the classification of stocks that are exploited by two or more countries (Appendix D of the report of the Committee on Resource Management). The management of stocks whose life cycle and distribution extends into the territorial waters of more than one country might call for direct negotiations between the countries concerned or be the subject of discussions within the framework of the competent regional organizations. Those stocks existing also beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and exploited internationally are subject to management by an international organization in order to ensure their proper conservation and management. In the Mediterranean, the Council is the appropriate organization. For highly migratory species, account should also be taken of the existence of other competent international organizations.

48. The Council was invited to consider this classification, the appropriate mechanisms for the management of such stocks and the role of GFCM and its subsidiary bodies in this respect.

49. The Secretariat further outlined to the meeting the extent and degree of shared stocks in the Mediterranean and approaches that might be considered for scientific assessment of their interdependencies.

50. The French delegation pointed out that one of the main prerequisites for efficient management of stocks extending into international waters is the development of serious and responsible international cooperation. The French delegation considered that the Council might be the most appropriate body for the Mediterranean because it had the power to recommend management measures and to insist on their implementation. The problem was to determine the present limits of this power and the possibilities offered by it.

51. The Italian delegation agreed that GFCM had this responsibility but that a regional project was required in order to provide appropriate scientific knowledge on which the recommendations could be based (distribution of resources, migrations, nurseries, socio-economic analysis).

52. The same delegation stressed that, among the functions envisaged under Article III of the Agreement setting up the GFCM, research is mentioned first (paragraph (a)). This is as it should be, since the only sound basis for adopting or rejecting management measures is to listen to what research has to say. Consequently, when talking about "management-oriented research" it is important not to forget the autonomy of research based on data collection and analysis. In other words, joint research is one thing and joint management another. As for the regional project, it could start now, at least as far as research is concerned.

53. The Tunisian delegation, in recognition of the difficulties that exist within the southern countries of the Mediterranean, suggested that such a project should pay attention to small pelagic species.

54. The Council adopted the report of the Committee on Resource Management except paragraph 73 which recommended that France and Spain develop a research programme in the western Gulf of Lions. The delegation of France informed the Council that they recognized the need for more research but could not, at this stage, commit formally the French authorities on this particular matter.

55. During the discussion of the role of GFCM and the type of scientific activity required to support it, the question of the competent authority for international management issues was debated, in relation to the status of the EEC. This was later clarified and the Council was informed by the EEC representative that before taking any commitment on management-oriented research programmes with third countries, EEC member countries should adopt a common position, taking account of the EEC's exclusive responsibility under the common fisheries policy. The Italian delegation underlined that this should also apply to bilateral scientific cooperation projects between EEC member countries and third countries.

56. Two delegations raised the matter of the possibility for the EEC to become a Member of GFCM. The EEC representative declared that he was ready to envisage such a possibility.

VI. FISHING AND FISHERIES PRODUCTS TECHNOLOGY

A. Exchange of Information on Fishing Technology

57. The Secretariat presented a brief outline of subject matters related to fishing technology indicating in particular the contribution this applied science can, among others, make in reduction of harvesting costs, development of fisheries on still under-utilized stocks, development of species/size selective gears and improvement of safety and working conditions.

58. It informed the Council that the establishment of a Working Party on Fishing Technology and its Socio-Economic Aspects proposed at the sixteenth session of the Council had, because of administrative and policy reasons, not taken place so far.

59. The Secretariat, however, expressed the view that for the time being the problems to be dealt with by the proposed working party could be taken up by technical consultations. This view was endorsed by the Council.

60. Italy and Spain informed the Council on research and development activities presently carried out on fishing gear (mainly trawls) and vessels to decrease, in particular, the energy requirements of fishing operations. As a result of these activities in Spain information on appropriate low-energy technologies is already being disseminated to the fisheries sector to speed up application, in relation to selectivity of mesh size in trawling operations.

61. Tunisia urged the Council to play its role in exchanging this type of information between member countries; for this purpose a technical consultation was considered most appropriate.

62. The Council concluded that as a first step exchange of information, experience and expertise in fishing technology should take place through a technical consultation on low-(energy) costs harvesting technologies. The terms of reference of the consultation would be to discuss and exchange information, in particular on undertaken and planned research and development in GFCM member countries of low-energy fishing gear and vessels.

B. Utilization and Marketing of Small Pelagic Species

63. The Secretariat introduced document GFCM/XVII/84/13 "Progress Report on the Cooperative Programme on the Utilization and Marketing of Small Pelagic Species" (see Appendix F). The report included two main topics:

- (a) organization of the Second Technical Consultation on the Utilization of Small Pelagic Species, and
- (b) investigation on better utilization and marketing of small pelagic species by scientific and industrial organizations.

64. As regards the technical consultation, Yugoslavia offered to host it in Zadar, one of the most important Adriatic fishing and fish processing centres, from 7 to 10 May 1985. The provisional agenda for the consultation will include five main subjects (see page 4 of Appendix F).

65. The report on activities in the field of investigation on better utilization of small pelagic fish is based on data received from some of the Member States (France, Greece, Italy, Israel, Spain and Yugoslavia). There are in progress a few integrated and individual projects dealing with processing of small pelagic species by traditional and non-traditional methods, as well as in construction of machines and equipment for processing sardine and sardine-like fishes. The results of investigation related to the subject will be discussed in detail at the second technical consultation.

66. The Tunisian delegation suggested to incorporate in the provisional agenda of the consultation the handling of fish on board of the fishing vessels, a subject which had already been considered by the first consultation.

67. More information on the new machines for the processing of small pelagic species and on new types of packaging materials was requested by a delegation.

68. At the request of the session, the Secretariat gave some information on the productivity of new automatic nobbing/packing machines in rectangular cans. The standard Mediterranean sardine canning line with a capacity of about 6 000 cans of 1/4 club type per hour is served by 80 workmen. The canning line with automatic nobbing/packing machines is served by only 40 workmen. The new plastic containers made from HDPE can be used for packing sterilized fish products. The cost of one plastic container of 130 ml is about US\$ 0.04 or only 1/3 of the price of the 1/4 club can made from tin or aluminium (125 ml capacity).

69. The delegation of Bulgaria informed the session of the present status of the Bulgarian processing industry regarding the Black Sea fish. Sprat is the main raw material processed as canned, salted, marinated, smoked and dried with the application of appropriate equipment.

70. The Italian delegation reported on progress being made in developing a suitable technology to manufacture fish paste from pelagic species and storing frozen fatty fish at low temperature under controlled atmosphere. The quality of products was excellent when first quality raw material was used.

71. The problems of marketing of small pelagic fish and their products were discussed. The main problems in utilization and marketing of small pelagic species are as follows: the cost of production, packing material and marketing problems in general. The industry in the area has organizational and financial problems. The following actions were suggested:

- exploration of the possibility of a better cooperation between enterprises essentially between the small-scale ones;
- creation of revolving funds particularly with regards to improving supply of raw material and to financing marketing efforts for the final products;
- evaluation of the product sold under quality brands, price policies, etc.; implementation of promotional policy such as market research, and establishment of centres for assistance to the professionals in the field of processing and marketing.

VII. FOLLOW UP TO THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FAO WORLD CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

72. The Assistant Director-General (Fisheries Department) presented document GFCM/XVII/84/Inf.5 entitled "Summary of the Decisions and Recommendations of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development and their Implications for the Mediterranean Region" (see Appendix G).

73. Referring to the fact that a long series of preparatory technical meetings had been held during the two years leading up to the Conference, he briefly ran through the main documents adopted by the Conference, i.e., the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, the five Programmes of Action, and a certain number of Resolutions.

74. The Conference emphasized that the principles and the guidelines contained in the Strategy should in no way be seen as binding upon or involving commitments by governments. However, it called for the Director-General of FAO to present periodic reports on its implementation by the governments themselves or by regional fisheries organizations, such as the GFCM.

75. The five Programmes of Action, which need all to be implemented at regional level, cover the following areas: planning, management and development of fisheries; development of small-scale fisheries; aquaculture development; international trade in fish and fishery products; promotion of the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition.

76. The cost of these Programmes has been put at US\$ 15 million a year for five years, starting in 1985, and will have to be covered by extra-budgetary funds. A contribution from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other donor agencies or countries is therefore needed. The consultations which have taken place so far with some of these are encouraging.

77. Three Resolutions adopted by the Conference refer in detail to the follow-up measures to be taken in order to implement the Strategy and Programmes of Action. Six other Resolutions regard various aspects of fisheries management and development. They call for a greater use of fish and fish products in food aid programmes; call for greater priority to be given to fishery investment projects; request intensified action to protect fish resources against pollution; propose the proclamation of an International Year of the Fisherman; recommend increased support for the development of fisheries in land-locked countries; and call for the promotion of technical cooperation between developing countries (TCDC), and economic cooperation between developing countries (ECDC) in the fisheries field.

78. The Conference report was submitted to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in July 1984, which decided that it should be discussed at the General Assembly, probably in November 1984.

79. The Assistant Director-General concluded his presentation by expressing the hope that regional fisheries organizations, and in particular the GFCM, would be able to take an active part in the implementation of the Conference decisions in the years to come.

80. The Director of Operations of the FAO Fisheries Department then ran over the implications which the Programmes of Action would have for the Mediterranean. Two of these Programmes in particular were relevant to the area: the one on planning, management and development of fisheries, and the one on development of small-scale fisheries, given that the aquaculture development programme is already well under way as a consequence of the MEDRAP project. Project proposals have been drawn up for the first two Programmes of Action and submitted to the session (see Annexes 1 and 2 of Appendix G).

81. The Italian delegation underlined the importance for the Mediterranean of the subjects dealt with by the Conference - in particular support for small-scale fisheries, prevention of waste and the development of the fishery and its products. Referring to a previous declaration made by it at the Conference, it reiterated Italy's willingness to play an active role in fisheries research and to provide financial support for the Regional Project on Fisheries Management and Development recommended by the Council.

82. A statement by the Italian delegation (see Appendix H) containing two proposals for pilot projects within the Regional Programme for the Mediterranean was circulated at the meeting:

- a management-oriented research project for demersal resources assessment, coordinated by EEC and FAO, to be carried out by Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta and Tunisia, in the central Mediterranean, "sensu lato";
- a management-oriented research project for small pelagic resources assessment in the Adriatic, to be carried out by Italy and Yugoslavia, and coordinated by FAO.

The statement also made some suggestions concerning the time-tabling of the projects, and the resources and techniques to be used. The Italian delegation stressed again the readiness of the Italian Government to contribute financially to the regional programme for the Mediterranean.

83. Several delegations also announced their support for the components of the Programmes of Action relating to the Mediterranean, and particularly stressed the development of small-scale fisheries, considered to be a priority sector.

84. The EEC underlined the importance of the conclusions of the World Fisheries Conference. It reaffirmed its interest in the development of Mediterranean fisheries, referring to the studies and projects it had financed and stating that it might in the future be able to contribute to new projects proposed for the area.

85. One delegation expressed the opinion that the project proposal on small-scale fisheries should not just involve Member States in the southern and eastern Mediterranean, but all GFCM Member States. Another delegation observed that, before setting up a project, it would be advisable to have a clearer idea of exactly which resources are under-exploited and to what extent.

86. Summing up the discussions on this agenda item, the Secretariat thanked Italy for the financial assistance it had already given and was now offering for the implementation of projects in the Mediterranean. It also thanked the EEC for the funds it had made available to the World Conference for facilitating the participation of developing countries.

VIII. REGIONAL AQUACULTURE PROJECT

87. The coordinator of the Regional Mediterranean Aquaculture Development Project (MEDRAP) described how the project had developed since it was set up (see Appendix I).

88. The Council expressed its satisfaction that this development had been positive. It applauded the fact that Italy had made available to the project the equivalent of US\$ 3 million. The major part of this budget will be used for the training of aquaculture and lagoon management technicians from all Mediterranean countries in a specialized centre of southern Italy; another part will be devoted to the reinforcement of the core staff of MEDRAP Project; the last one will be used to assist priority projects selected in agreement between the Project coordinator and the Italian authorities. The Council thanked Italy for this important contribution to the Mediterranean aquaculture development programme.

89. The French delegation expressed its interest in the action taken by Italy and told the Council that it would inform its government of the new possibilities held out by this type of cooperation.

90. The Egyptian and Moroccan delegations requested that further details be given on the present state of the pilot studies and projects currently being carried out in their countries.

91. The Greek, Italian and Tunisian delegations also requested details on the financing and assistance for the pilot projects.

IX. EXERCISE BY THE COUNCIL OF ITS STATUTORY POWERS

92. The representative of France declared that his country was satisfied with the quality of the scientific and technical work undertaken by the GFCM in recent years, especially as regards resource assessment. At the same time, he suggested that this work should be followed up in a practical and logical manner by making recommendations on conservation and resource management. These recommendations should be framed in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article V of the Agreement governing the GFCM of which little use has been made to date.

93. It was observed that if this formal procedure was used more frequently, the Council's image as an international organization responsible for fisheries management and development policy at regional level would be reinforced. In this connection, attention was drawn to the fact that during recent sessions the Council had given the name "recommendations" to what were really action guidelines addressed to the scientific community. It was stated

that these recommendations should not be confused with those which the Council is empowered to make under Article III(b) of the Agreement. The latter carry much more weight since they are binding on all Council Member States who have not made a formal objection within the time allowed.

94. As regards future sessions, it was suggested that the Secretariat bear in mind these remarks when drawing up the agenda and when preparing documents for submission to the Council.

X. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS RECOMMENDED FOR THE NEXT INTERSESSION

95. The Council reviewed all the proposed meetings suggested during the intersession and endorsed by it, as well as those originating in the present session.

96. On condition that the necessary funds for holding these meetings are available and that Member States are in a position to host them where necessary, and that the Secretariat can supply the necessary support, the Council recommended that the following meetings be held, meetings which have not been definitively scheduled not being listed in any particular order of priority:

- Technical Consultation on the Utilization of Small Pelagic Species in the Mediterranean Area, second session. Zadar, Yugoslavia, 7-10 May 1985 (see paragraph 64).
- Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Adriatic, fourth session. Split, Yugoslavia, 7-11 October 1985. Coordinator: S. Jukić (see paragraph 95 of the Report of the Third Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Adriatic).
- Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Balearic and Gulf of Lions Statistical Divisions, fourth session. Algeria, second half of 1985 (see paragraph 91 of the Report of the Third Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Balearic and Gulf of Lions Statistical Divisions).

A review of all acoustic assessments carried out in the sub-region will be made and researchers working in the field of acoustic assessment in other sub-regions will be invited. (P. Oliver will coordinate this latter activity.) A workshop on Simple Analytical Methods in Assessing Resources will be organized together with the Consultation. In these circumstances, it is advisable to plan for a meeting lasting more than a week.

- Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Central Mediterranean, second session. Mazara del Vallo, Italy, first quarter of 1985. Coordinator: D. Levi (see paragraph 103 of the Report of the First Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Central Mediterranean).
- Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Eastern Mediterranean, first session. Egypt (see paragraph 26).
- Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Black Sea, second session. Tentatively in Bulgaria (see paragraph 28).
- Technical Consultation on Red Coral Resources of the Western Mediterranean and their Rational Exploitation, second session (see paragraph 45).
- Technical Consultation on Open-Sea Shellfish Culture in Association with Artificial Reefs, first session. Ancona, Italy. Joint Coordinators: R. Raimbault and G. Bombace (see paragraph 42).
- Technical Consultation on Fishing Technology and its Socio-Economic Aspects, first session. Ancona, Italy. Coordinator: G. Bombace (see paragraph 62).

It is planned to hold the latter two meetings consecutively in the same week.

- Committee on Resource Management, sixth session. Rome, 1986.
- Eighteenth Session of GFCM; September 1986 (see paragraph 119)
- Workshop on Approach Methods to Small-Scale Fisheries. To be held probably in France at the beginning of 1986; official confirmation should be sent to the Secretariat. Coordinator: H. Farrugio (see paragraph 90(i) of the report of Third Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Balearic and Gulf of Lions Statistical Divisions).

XI. OTHER MATTERS

A. Jelly-Fish Programme

97. The representative of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan informed the Council about the activities of the Long-term Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme in the Mediterranean (MED POL - Phase II).

98. He specifically referred to the Jelly-Fish Programme which was initiated this year to study, among other topics, the causes of jelly-fish blooms and their effects on human activities, including fisheries.

99. The Council took note with satisfaction of these activities and considered that, since very little information was available, research should be strengthened in the framework of the UNEP Action Plan for the Mediterranean in this field, especially as regards the possible effects of jelly-fish blooms on fisheries.

100. The Council expressed the wish to be kept informed of the progress of this activity.

B. Turtle Programmes

101. The Secretariat informed the session that, on 11 April 1983, the Permanent Representative of France to FAO sent to the Director-General of FAO the text of the recommendation below, which had been adopted by the twenty-eighth Congress and Plenary Assembly of the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (ICSEM) held in France. Under Article 14 of the Commissions's rules, the government hosting the Congress was responsible for disseminating the recommendation, in particular to the relevant international organizations.

102. The text of the recommendation is as follows:

"Taking into account the disturbing fall in the number of marine turtles currently estimated in the Mediterranean, which emerges from the memoranda presented at the twenty-eighth Congress and Plenary Assembly of ICSEM to the Committee on Marine Vertebrates and Cephalopods.

ICSEM recommends:

- the development of research into the biology and migrations of marine turtles in the Mediterranean, with particular emphasis on the use of tagging techniques;
- the drawing up of a survey on the nesting grounds of these vertebrates;
- the protection of these nesting grounds;
- the application of the principles and rules laid down by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna."

103. The Council noted this recommendation and expressed its interest in the initiative taken by ICSEM. It hoped that its Member States would take account of this recommendation and the necessary measures to protect marine turtles in the Mediterranean.

104. In this connection, it noted with satisfaction that all Mediterranean turtles were included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

105. The Greek delegation informed the participants of the loggerhead marine turtle (*Caretta caretta*) tagging programme carried out by its country. More than 800 turtles have been tagged and those recaptured have provided some extremely useful information on migration of the species.

106. The Council expressed interest in this Programme. It hoped that measures to protect marine turtles would be included in national legislations.

107. In addition, in view of the fact that the Programme's success depends on obtaining the cooperation of Mediterranean fishermen and that this cooperation will be facilitated if fisheries authorities in countries in the region intervene, the Council thought the attention of these authorities should be drawn to the Greek tagging programme, and also to the need to protect marine turtles.

108. Finally, the Council noted that non-Mediterranean countries were carrying out fishing operations in the Mediterranean, making considerable use of surface longlines; it considered that these countries should be informed about the problems of sea-turtle protection so that they might be led to collaborate in it.

C. Use of Arabic at GFCM Sessions

109. The Egyptian delegation requested that, in accordance with Rule XVIII of the GFCM Rules of Procedure, Arabic be used in future in Council sessions.

D. Cooperation between IOC and GFCM

110. The representative from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) recalled that, up until recently, the IOC had tended to concentrate on basic research, geared more to physical oceanography than to living resources. This no longer holds true since the creation of the Oceanographic Sciences for Living Resources Section (OSLR), and the IOC is now pursuing applied research in areas which are also of interest to the GFCM.

111. Currently, the IOC is putting the emphasis on recruitment since this is the basis for everything affecting stock maintenance and development. In this area, the IOC is stressing the role played by the environment on recruitment. It held a meeting in July 1984 for the purpose of defining an extensive programme on resource appraisal and the analysis of recruitment conditions. It is now applying this to upwelling areas on the western façade of North and South America.

112. During this meeting, another programme of the same type was identified, though not drawn up, dealing with recruitment in tropical areas and, more specifically, in inshore mangrove and swamp areas.

113. Here, the objectives of IOC and GFCM coincide and, especially as concerns France, those of IFREMER as well.

114. The IOC representative reaffirmed his organization's readiness to collaborate with GFCM.

E. Cooperation between ICES and GFCM

115. The observer from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) expressed, on behalf of his organization, the wish that the cooperation which currently exists between ICES and GFCM, in particular in the area of stock assessment by acoustic methods, should be continued and extended.

XII. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

116. A Nomination Committee met on Wednesday, 19 September. Its spokesman, the Italian representative, proposed to the Council that the present members of the Bureau, whose names are given below, should be reappointed:

Chairman:	Mr M. Hadj Ali Salem (Tunisia)
First Vice-Chairman:	Mr A. Bordes (France)
Second Vice-Chairman:	Mr L. Ianev (Bulgaria)

117. This proposal was unanimously approved by the Council.

XIII. DATE AND PLACE OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

118. In accordance with Rule II item 1 of the GFCM Rules of Procedure, the Council, in consultation with the Director-General of FAO, decides on the time and place of the next session, taking into account the Council's requirements and the terms of the invitation of the country in which the Session is to be held.

119. In reply to the Chairman's question whether any Member State was willing to host the Eighteenth Session, the delegate from Monaco suggested that it might be possible to hold it in his country, subject to the availability of the Conference room and the necessary offices during the period fixed for the Session. The Council accepted this proposal by acclamation. The periods 15-19 or 22-26 September 1986 were provisionally fixed for the Session.

XIV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

120. The report of the Seventeenth Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean was adopted on 21 September 1984.

APPENDIX A

Agenda

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
3. Monitoring and assessment of resources
 - 3.1 Statistics
 - 3.1.1 Catch and effort; specific problems of coastal fisheries
 - 3.1.2 Economic statistics
 - 3.2 Assessment
 - 3.2.1 Acoustic methods for detection and abundance estimation
 - 3.2.2 Assessment at sub-regional and regional levels
 - 3.2.3 Progress to achieve
4. Fisheries management
 - 4.1 Limitation of mesh size and regulation of effort
 - 4.2 Coastal management and interactions between the various fisheries
 - 4.3 Red coral
5. Problems of stocks exploited in common
 - 5.1 Coordination in the field of research
 - 5.2 Coordination in the field of management
6. Fishing and fisheries products technology
 - 6.1 Exchange of information on fishing technology
 - 6.2 Utilization of small pelagic species
7. Technical assistance to regional cooperation
 - 7.1 In the field of fisheries management
 - 7.2 Regional aquaculture project
8. Follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development
9. Exercise by the Council of its statutory powers
10. Other matters
11. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
12. Date and place of the eighteenth session
13. Adoption of the report

APPENDIX B

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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	GFCM/XVII/84/Inf. 7 September 1984
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GENERAL FISHERIES COUNCIL FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM)

Seventeenth Session

Rome, 17-21 septembre 1984

STATEMENT BY MR JEAN CARROZ
ASSISTANT-DIRECTOR GENERAL (FISHERIES DEPARTMENT)

Mr. Chairman, Delegates and Observers,

Since the Director General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, is in Reykjavik this week attending the FAO Regional Conference for Europe, I should like to welcome you on his behalf to the seventeenth session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean.

Mr. Chairman, I have been following the progress of the Council for a long time now, and am well acquainted with its activities and achievements. In particular, I recall having taken part in the thirteenth session in 1976 which adopted a number of amendments to the Agreement and Rules of Procedure, thus allowing the Council to draw up conservation measures and follow up on their implementation. I can also remember having worked with you at the Consultation organized by FAO in 1974 to study ways of protecting living resources and fisheries in the Mediterranean from pollution, a consultation which paved the way for the adoption by coastal States of the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution.

The problems facing Mediterranean fisheries are of an extremely diverse nature, as indeed are the resources themselves, the ways in which they are exploited and utilized, and the socio-economic systems of the coastal States. In my opinion, the Council is thus perfectly correct in having selected a certain number of major objectives and concentrating its activities on them, namely: the assessment, conservation, management and development of resources by rational exploitation and utilization.

These priorities are reflected in your agenda and I should like to take this opportunity to comment briefly on them.

Resource assessment, which is seen by the Council not as an end in itself but rather as a necessary prerequisite for sound management, has been improving steadily, since the Council's 1978 recommendation that sub-regional stock assessment consultations be held. These consultations are gaining in favour since they allow consideration of the biological characteristics peculiar to each of the Mediterranean sub-regions. In addition, the fact that the discussions relate to practical problems in the sub-region has meant that the overall quality has improved with more and more experts participating.

I should however point out that, whilst the consultations on the Central and Western Mediterranean have been a success, organizational problems have been encountered in the other areas. I should like to echo the hope expressed by the Working Party on Resource Appraisal and Fisheries Statistics at its eighth session last July, to the effect that the Council look into this matter and find a solution to it in the near future.

As I mentioned above, the Council is attaching increasing importance to the rational management of resources and it was in order to intervene more effectively in this area that the decision to amend its basic Agreement was made. As you will recall, its first action was to adopt a recommendation on the minimum mesh size for trawls used in the Mediterranean. Then, recognizing that the cause of the problems was the excessive fishing effort, the Council decided to regulate it. As a result, numerous discussions took place in the Council's various bodies and these have helped many countries in the region to implement programmes for limiting fishing effort, as well as raising awareness generally in the Member States of the importance of the problem. For me, this has been one of the Council's most significant achievements and I very much hope that it will follow this path and continue to expand its activities, so that together you may examine each case in turn and determine which methods of regulation are most suited to the Mediterranean.

Improved exploitation of small pelagic species might also be said to come within the sphere of management. On many occasions, the Council has expressed its opinion that, as far as possible, some of the effort directed at overexploited demersal resources should be transferred to small pelagic species which have a considerable potential in some areas. You are all well aware of this problem, but its solution is primarily to be found at the processing and the marketing level. Several countries are now carrying out work on this, and at least some of the impetus has come from the Council's recommendations. I firmly believe that the Cooperative Programme on the Utilization and Marketing of Small Pelagic Species set up by the Council will contribute to the rational utilization of this under-exploited or unwisely exploited resource.

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to turn to a recent event which will have a considerable influence on world fisheries, and I hope, on Mediterranean fisheries as well. A little more than two months ago, the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development took place here in Rome. A document summarizing the decisions of the Conference is available, but I would like to briefly run over the implications of these decisions for the Mediterranean region.

The Conference, at which many Mediterranean coastal States were represented by their Minister of Fisheries, has the following objectives: putting world fisheries resources to optimal use from the economic, social and nutritional standpoints; increasing the contribution made by fish to national food self-sufficiency and to world food security; promoting self-reliance in developing countries in fisheries management and development; and strengthening international collaboration in fisheries, not only between developed and developing countries, but also between developing countries themselves.

The Conference approved a detailed Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development. In addition, it adopted an integrated package of five Programmes of Action designed to assist developing countries to increase fish production and improve their self-reliance in fisheries. These Programmes of Action cover the following five complementary areas: planning, management and development of fisheries; small-scale fisheries development; aquaculture development; international trade in fish and fish products; and the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition.

Clearly, these Programmes are of interest to Mediterranean fisheries, albeit to different degrees. The most important ones seem to me to be those relating to planning, management and development of fisheries, small-scale fisheries development, and aquaculture development. Aquaculture is already off to a good start thanks to the MEDRAP project about whose progress you will hear later. This is an appropriate point to express our thanks to the Italian Government which has just made available three million dollars for an aquaculture development project complementing MEDRAP. I would also like to thank the EEC for providing financial assistance which is much appreciated. We will return to this subject on Wednesday afternoon.

Much still remains to be done, however, especially in developing countries in the region. As you know, the Fifteenth Session unanimously recommended in 1980 that a regional project for fisheries management and development be set up. The same recommendation was made by the Sixteenth Session. Moreover, in recent years, almost all the Council's subsidiary bodies have emphasized that such a project could, thanks to the human, material

and financial resources it would bring to the region, help developing countries to promote national capabilities and take part on equal terms with other countries in the fisheries development efforts advocated by the Council.

Further to several strong pleas made at the World Fisheries Conference for the development of the Mediterranean fisheries, FAO has decided to put forward two projects which come under the Programmes of Action on planning, fisheries management and development and small-scale fisheries development. It is our hope that the interest shown in these Programmes at the Conference will be given practical form by the participation of the Council's Member States, with effective support coming from donor agencies. This is another subject which will come up for discussion later in the Session.

Mr. Chairman, Delegates and Observers, I wish you every success in your work at this Session. I am sure that, as on previous occasions, you will assist the Council to continue along the path you have set with a view to ensuring the optimal utilization of biological resources in the Mediterranean. Here at FAO we see the Council as the dean of our regional fishery bodies and this is why we pay particular close attention to its proceedings.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

APPENDIX D

List of Documents Presented at the Session

- GFCM/XVII/84/1 Provisional agenda
- 2 Provisional annotated agenda and timetable
 - 4 Report of the Eighth Session of the Working Party on Resource Appraisal and Fishery Statistics
 - 5 Report of the Technical Consultation on Acoustic Methods for Fish Detection and Abundance Estimation
 - 6 Report of the Third Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Adriatic
 - 7 Report of the Third Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Balearic and Gulf of Lions Statistical Divisions
 - 8 Progress achieved and future activities in the field of resource assessment: a summary of the conclusions of the last technical consultations
 - 9 Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Resource Management
 - 10 Problems and conflicts in some Mediterranean fisheries
 - 11 Report of the Expert Consultation on Management of Coastal Lagoon Fisheries
 - 12 Report of the Technical Consultation on Red Coral Resources of the Western Mediterranean and their Rational Exploitation
 - 13 Progress report on the utilization of small pelagic species in the Mediterranean
 - 14 Progress report on the Mediterranean Regional Aquaculture Project (MEDRAP)
- GFCM/XVII/84/Inf.1 Provisional list of documents
- 2 Selected bibliography on Mediterranean fisheries (1982-84)
 - 3 Problems of stock assessment in the Adriatic, Sicily Strait, Tunisian waters and the Aegean Sea
 - 5 Summary of the decisions and recommendations of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development and their implications for the Mediterranean region

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Item 3.2 of the
provisional agenda

GENERAL FISHERIES COUNCIL FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM)

Seventeenth Session

Rome, 17-21 September 1984

PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF RESOURCE ASSESSMENT: A SUMMARY OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE LAST TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS

INTRODUCTION

1. Since the last GFCM session (27 September - 1 October 1982), the Secretariat has held four technical consultations, concerning acoustic surveys (Palma de Mallorca, 8-12 November 1982), Adriatic resources (Fano, 6-10 June 1983), Western Mediterranean resources (Sète, 21-25 November 1983) and red coral stocks (Palma de Mallorca, 13-16 December 1983).
2. The reports of these meetings will be presented at the session; each contains a series of directives and recommendations for future activities. This paper lists these directives and recommendations as a quick reference list for participants.

PROGRESS ACCOMPLISHED

3. Real progress has been made since the seventh session of the Working Party on Resource Appraisal and Fishery Statistics in 1978. Traditional appraisals using production models have been updated for the entire area covered by the consultations. An intensive effort has also been undertaken to compile a biological data base (synoptic sheets by principal species, compilation of population parameters, compilation of maps showing distribution of stocks and fisheries). This data base, which will be further improved, made it possible to introduce analytical methods of stock assessment (Y/R models). These methods will form the core of future progress in this field in the years to come, if biological sampling (at least size frequency distribution) can be improved.
4. One concrete result of the effort to compile a biological data base was the joint production of a draft atlas of western and central Mediterranean fisheries (see document GFCM/XVII/84/Inf. 4), providing a direct visual overview of all data on resource and exploitation. The atlas is expected to contribute substantially to solving management problems, particularly those raised by the stocks exploited in common by several countries.
5. Another concrete result of the compilation effort was the GFCM publication of synthesis on Mediterranean resources in its Studies and Reviews series. The western Mediterranean review has already been published and the one on the Black Sea is now being printed. Other reviews are being prepared for the central and eastern Mediterranean with some difficulties, however, due to the fact that data is scattered or lacking and that it is difficult to find adequate expertise to help with this kind of work.
6. It should be mentioned that scientific trawling or acoustic surveys have developed in the western Mediterranean as direct methods of assessing fishery potential.

7. Cruises have also been carried out under bilateral cooperation. The Council will perhaps express the hope that representatives of countries concerned will report on the results.

8. Concerning the red coral in the western Mediterranean, the economic importance of which has largely been underestimated in the past, major progress has been made on the theoretical aspects of the understanding of the problems involved, resource appraisal, modelisation and management.

9. Appreciable efforts have been made in some countries to achieve a better understanding of small scale coastal fisheries, the economic importance of which has also been largely underestimated in the past. This fisheries sector is now playing a substantial economic role at least comparable to that played by "industrial" trawl or pelagic fisheries.

10. Fish stock and abundance estimation methods were examined, as was the standardization of appraisal measures.

DIRECTIVES FOR FUTURE ACTIONS

11. Despite the unquestionable progress which has been made, a great deal still remains to be done in whole sections of the fishery sector and sometimes even whole Mediterranean sub-areas.

Adriatic

12. In the Adriatic, recommendations concerned:

(a) Speeding up the distribution of oceanographic data and the need to standardize such data in a central data base.

(b) The establishment of time series of relevant parameters (temperatures, rainfall, river flow, and so forth).

(c) The preparation of more resource distribution maps.

(d) Expansion of the effort to collect data on the sizes of species fished.

(e) Upgrading national fishery statistics collection systems (catch and effort) particularly for small coastal fisheries.

(f) More coordinated trawl surveys at the sub-area level. An effort is now being made to reorganize sampling schemes to optimize the results obtained.

(g) Intensified utilization of analytical methods.

(h) The establishment of real coordination of acoustic surveys for pelagic species.

Western Mediterranean

13. Recommendations for the western Mediterranean concerned:

(a) The need for competent research laboratories to check the data contained in the STATLANT forms before their submittal to FAO.

(b) The exchange of sardine otoliths among sub-areas and overall improvement of biological sampling (particularly for sizes).

(c) The assessment of the areas exploited by various fisheries, by depth strata (for example 0-50, 50-200, 200-400 and 400-1000 m) for making comparative analysis.

(d) Analysis of chronological series so as to detect "cycles" of variation.

(e) Development of the analysis of small coastal fisheries and of appropriate methodologies. It was recommended that a workshop be organized.

(f) The generalization and rationalization of survey cruises and much greater improvement in their coordination.

(g) An effort on analysis/training regarding method of analyzing size structures. It was recommended a workshop be held.

Red coral

14. The Palma de Mallorca consultation excited considerable interest demonstrating the economic importance of coral, the peculiar features of its exploitation and the difficulties involved in its management. It was recommended that a working party be established under GFCM to follow-up progress achieved in this area in which regional collaboration is so vital. The Council was also asked to express an opinion on whether or not red coral should be listed under Annex II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Assessments by acoustical methods

15. The latest consultation on this topic in November 1982 recommended that fish detection and abundance estimation activities up to now under GFCM be linked in future with the relevant work of the International Council on Exploration of the Sea (ICES). However, the consultation decided that matters concerning research on acoustical methods and the relevant administrative problems of these should continue to be examined under GFCM.

CONCLUSIONS

16. After taking note of the directives listed in Chapter III, most of which are of technical nature, and perhaps ratifying them, the Council would perhaps like to take a closer look at:

(i) The advisability of holding expert consultations on approaches to small scale fisheries and the analysis of size structures.

(ii) The advisability of establishing a working party on red coral.

(iii) Ways of improving coordination of surveys for stock evaluation purposes, particularly in areas where these are fished in common.

(iv) Measures to enlist better participation of the eastern Mediterranean countries in the Council's activities and thereby extend the potential benefits to these countries.

(v) The means of the effective implementation of a regional project to provide the necessary assistance in the field of fishery research, oriented towards resource appraisal and management to countries who need it.

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Item 6.2 of the
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GENERAL FISHERIES COUNCIL FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM)

Seventeenth Session

Rome, 17-21 September 1984

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME

ON THE UTILIZATION AND MARKETING OF SMALL PELAGIC SPECIES

SUMMARY

The organization of the Second Technical Consultation on the Utilization of Small Pelagic Species and investigations on better utilization and marketing of these species were two main activities between the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of GFCM. The progress report discusses these activities in general as well as the latest developments in construction of equipment for processing small pelagic species.

The main activities in the field of utilization and marketing of small pelagic species between the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Sessions of GFCM were as follows:

- a) The organization of the Second Technical Consultation on the Utilization of Small Pelagic Species, and
- b) the investigation of better utilization and marketing of small pelagic species by scientific and industrial organizations.

Based on data received from member countries, this report reviews the above-mentioned activities.

1. The Organization of the Second Technical Consultation on the Utilization of Small Pelagic Species in the Mediterranean Area

The sixteenth session of the GFCM recommended that a Second Technical Consultation on the Utilization of Small Pelagic Species in the Mediterranean Area be held during the intersessional period. It was originally planned to hold the consultation in the spring of 1984 in Zadar, Yugoslavia, but for technical reasons the meeting had to be postponed to 7-10 May 1985. The provisional agenda for the consultation is attached to this report.

2. Investigation of better utilization and marketing of small pelagic species by scientific and industrial organizations

One of the most important subjects of investigation by scientific and industrial organizations has been, and continues to be, the utilization and marketing of small pelagic species in the Mediterranean area. Information received from some member countries indicates the interest of integrated projects in the better utilization of small pelagic species (incorporating biology, fishing, processing and marketing), as well as the interest of individual projects, mostly in the field of processing small pelagic species by traditional and non-traditional methods. There is also an interest in a better utilization of some sardine-like fish such as anchovy and sprat which have still to be fully exploited. Manufacturers of fish processing equipment have made remarkable progress in constructing machines for processing small pelagic species, i.e., a machine for automatic nobbing and packing sardines in rectangular cans and a machine for filleting salted sardines and anchovies.

The integrated project in the Institut scientifique et technique des Pêche maritimes in Nantes, France, is working on the better utilization of small pelagic species. They are mainly investigating:

- Biology and dynamics
- Estimation of stocks
- Distribution and availability of raw material
- Processing technology, including the cost of production
- Marketing
- Plan of operation for a project (to start in 1986)

The Stazione Sperimentale per L'Industria delle Conserve Alimentari in Parma, Italy, is involved in two main activities:

- Assessing microbiological and chemical changes in frozen fatty fish, stored at low temperature under controlled atmospheres, and
- developing a suitable technology to manufacture fish paste from small pelagic species.

An Italian fish-processing firm in Riccione is trying, with the support of the Italian Government, to develop a few new products, using sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) and anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) as the main raw material. A study is in progress on the installation of a pilot plant for manufacturing a product consisting of a mixture of sardine and sardine-like fish together with vegetable fat, vitamins and other ingredients to satisfy the taste of adults and children. The technology used to produce this canned food is very simple and the cost of the final product should be reasonable.

The Instituto del Frio in Madrid, Spain, continues to work on the problems of storing different types of frozen minced sardine. The Fishery Products Laboratory in Haifa, Israel, is working on the better utilization of freshwater bleak (*Mirogrex (Acanthobrama) terraesanctae*).

The Centre for Fish and Economy in the Mediterranean in Zadar, Yugoslavia, is also involved in problems of production and storage of minced fish products with sardine as the main raw material.

A Spanish company in Vigo which is specialized in the manufacture of fish-canning equipment, has developed a new automatic machine for nobbing/packing sardines in rectangular cans. The efficiency of this equipment can be compared to similar machines being imported into the Mediterranean area from Norway and the USSR.

The first commercially successful machine for filleting salted sardines or anchovies (Mediterranean style) was developed and marketed in 1983 in Rome, Italy. This machine, similar to the automatic nobbing machine, drastically reduces manpower and cost, especially in the production of salted fillets used for sandwiches, pizzas, salad dressing paste, etc.

The technical characteristics and feasibility of these and other machines will be discussed at the Second Technical Consultation on the Utilization of Small Pelagic Species.

A review of the prospects and present problems of marketing small pelagic species in Mediterranean countries will be presented and discussed at the consultation.

3. Action suggested to the Council

The Council is invited to note the activities carried out during the intersessional period and to incite its member States to take measures for the success of the Second Technical Consultation on the Utilization of Small Pelagic Species in the Mediterranean Area.

SECOND TECHNICAL CONSULTATION
ON THE UTILIZATION OF SMALL PELAGIC SPECIES
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Consultation
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
4. Regional Programme of Research on Better Utilization of Small Pelagic Species in the Mediterranean: review of results of investigation during the period May 1981-May 1985
5. The New Trend in Utilization of Small Pelagic Species, Minced Fish and Products Made On the Basis of Minced Fish
6. The New Developments in Utilization of Small Pelagic Species by Traditional Methods
7. Packaging Material and Packages, Important Factors on Better Utilization of Small Pelagic Species
8. Status of Marketing of Small Pelagic Fish in the Mediterranean: problems and prospects
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the Report

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Item 8 of the
provisional agenda

GENERAL FISHERIES COUNCIL FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM)

Seventeenth Session

Rome, 17.21 September 1984

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS OF THE FAO WORLD CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

I. Introduction

1. The FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development was held in Rome over the period 27 June to 6 July 1984. The culmination of a long series of scientific and technical workshops and seminars and based upon the recommendations of the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (October 1983) and an ad hoc consultation of government experts held in March 1984, the Conference was, said the Director-General of FAO in his closing address, a unique event in the history of world fisheries.

2. The Conference was attended by delegations from 147 countries, many being led by Ministers, and representatives of 60 international organizations. It was honoured by the presence of His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain who addressed the Conference on its opening day, 27 June.

3. Under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Pedro Ojeda Paullada, Secretary of Fisheries of Mexico, the Conference heard statements by 108 Heads of Delegations and 22 representatives of international organizations. Two Commissions were established to deal with the major items on the Conference's agenda. Commission I, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Maina Wanjigi (Kenya), discussed the draft "Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development; Commission II, under the Chairmanship of Mr B. Labrousse (France), reviewed the proposals for five associated Programmes of Action. Mr Robert A. Bain (Australia) served as Rapporteur General of the Conference.

II. Major outcome of the Conference

4. The Conference made decisions on three principal matters or groups of items.

5. It endorsed a Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, comprising guidelines and principles for consideration by governments and organizations when planning and implementing fisheries management and development. The Strategy covers eight major elements: the contribution of fisheries to national economic, social and nutritional goals; improved national self-reliance in fisheries; the rational management and optimum use of fish resources; the special role and needs of small-scale fisheries; international trade in fish and fish products; investment in fisheries; economic and technical cooperation; and international collaboration in fisheries.

6. In endorsing the Strategy, the Conference emphasized that the principles and guidelines contained therein were flexible, reflecting the special requirements and situations of different countries. It should in no way be considered binding upon or involving commitments by governments nor should its provisions prejudice the application of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Strategy was considered to be a unique and valuable point of reference and guidelines as governments and international organization work together to promote the self-reliance of countries in fisheries and to increase the contribution of fish to world food supplies and food security.

7. The Conference approved an integrated package of five Programmes of Action to assist developing countries to increase fish production and improve their individual and collective self-reliance in fisheries. Designed for execution mainly, but not exclusively, by FAO, the Programmes of Action cover the following five separate but interlinked areas: planning, management and development of fisheries; small-scale fisheries development; aquaculture development; international trade in fish and fish products; and the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition.

8. The major components of the Programmes of Action are as follows:

(a) Planning, management and development of fisheries

The purpose of this Programme is to provide developing countries with access to the range of skills required for the planning, management and development of fisheries, both marine and on inland waters. Under the programme, a wide range of technical advisory services, in biology, economics, law and other subjects, will be provided by FAO, through short-term multi-disciplinary missions and, particularly, through the network of regional and sub-regional technical support units. Emphasis will also be placed upon training courses in such skills as the collection and analysis of biological data, resource assessment, socio-economic analysis, management and development planning, and the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries. Another objective will be advice and assistance in the improved identification and use of investment funds. The Programme will, above all, be concerned with the strengthening of regional and sub-regional collaboration in fisheries management and development and the channelling of technical support through regional fishery bodies and their associated projects and programmes.

(b) Development of small-scale fisheries

This Programme is based on an integrated approach to the development of small-scale fisheries and the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of communities of artisanal fishermen and their families. It provides for the development of fisheries by promoting the skills, capacities and potentials of fishing communities, through the active involvement and participation of the fishing villagers in the planning and implementation of management and development activities. Assistance and advisory services will be given by regional and sub-regional small-scale fisheries development groups. Attention will be accorded not only to the technologies and skills involved in harvesting, handling, processing and distribution but also to economic and social considerations including education, health and infrastructure. Training and extension services will be key elements of the Programme which will also emphasize the investment and credit needs of small-scale fisheries.

(c) Aquaculture Development

This Programme is designed to continue, strengthen and diversify the support services for increased aquaculture production organized under the inter-regional UNDP/FAO Aquaculture Development and Coordination Programme (ADCP). The regional and inter-regional aquaculture centres already established under the ADCP, which undertake applied research for technology development, senior-level training and the development of an aquaculture data base, will be linked to strengthened national centres for technology testing and adaptation, training of technicians and extension workers and information dissemination. The Programme will give particular emphasis to improving the collection and reliability of statistics on all aspects of aquaculture as a basis for better planning and investment.

(d) International trade in fish and fishery products

The objective of this Programme is to help developing countries to increase the benefits they obtain from international trade in fish and fishery products. The Programme has three main components. The first relates to the maintenance and extension of the regional fish marketing information and technical advisory services established by FAO. The second aspect is the creation of a system to provide continuous up-to-date trade information upon major commodities entering trade in fish and fishery products; this system of international fish market indicators will coordinate and supplement the information provided by the regional services. The Programme also proposes action to develop a multi-lateral framework for consultation on trading conditions and fair-trade practices for fishery products. In all these activities, FAO will seek the closest collaboration and coordination with other UN and international organizations concerned with various aspects of international trade in fish and fishery products.

(e) Promotion of the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition

The objective of the fifth Programme of Action is to reduce wastage in fishing industry operations and ensure that fishery resources are utilized so as to make the greatest possible contribution to food supplies for the benefit of the poorest and weakest sections of the community. The Programme provides for encouragement and assistance to governments to take nutritional aspects into account when formulating and implementing national fishery policies. It provides for action to increase the availability of suitable raw materials by improving handling and processing methods and thus reducing post-harvest losses. It includes steps to promote the production and market introduction of new low-cost products, particularly from under-utilized species and from by-catch discards. The Programme also will encourage and assist regional cooperative programmes in fish technology research and provide training in fish technology and processing.

9. In adopting a special Resolution approving the Programmes of Action, the Conference urged all bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and financing institutions to provide the support required for their effective implementation. Many delegations expressed the view that the preliminary indications given of the level of funding required represented the absolute minimum needed to implement the Programmes.

10. The special implications of the various Programmes of Action for the Mediterranean region are discussed in a latter section of this document.

III. Resolutions adopted by the Conference

11. In addition to Resolutions endorsing the Strategy and approving the Programmes of Action, the Conference adopted a Resolution regarding the follow-up actions required to implement the Strategy and Action Programmes.

12. The Resolution invited the Director-General of FAO to take all measures necessary to ensure the implementation of the Programmes of Action, and to provide the FAO Committee on Fisheries and the Organization's governing bodies with periodic reports on the progress achieved in implementing the Strategy and the Programmes of Action. States, international and regional organizations were encouraged to cooperate with the Director-General of FAO in the preparation of such reports. The Director-General was further invited to bring the results of the Conference to the attention of the 86th Session of the Council, the 23rd Session of the FAO Conference, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations and to the concerned international bodies.

13. In response to this Resolution, the Regular Programme work plan of the Fisheries Department for 1985 is under review to ensure the provision of the technical advice and support required for the planning and implementation of the Programmes of Action. Similarly, the proposals to be presented to the 23rd Session of the FAO Conference with regard to the relevant sections of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 will be framed to meet the same requirements.

14. Although adequate support from Regular Programme resources is necessary for the efficient planning and execution of the Programmes of Action, the extent to which these Programmes can be implemented will depend upon the availability of extra-budgetary funds and other forms of support from bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and financing institutions. To this end, consultations have already been initiated with donor agencies and financing institutions and these discussions will be intensified, in particular with regard to the offers of collaboration expressed by Heads of Delegations at the World Fisheries Conference.

15. These consultations are being undertaken on the basis of detailed projects proposals for the various components of each Action Programme. In this connection, it is important to note that although the Programmes are designed essentially for execution by FAO through its regional mechanisms, individual elements could, where appropriate, be executed bilaterally.

16. The progress achieved in mobilizing the required extra-budgetary funds and other forms of support for the Programmes will be an important part of the reports to be periodically submitted to the FAO Committee on Fisheries, Council and Conference.

17. The World Fisheries Conference clearly underlined the non-mandatory nature of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and emphasized that the principles and guidelines therein were incorporated for the consideration of governments within the context of the special requirements and situations of individual countries. At the same time the Conference, in the Resolution it adopted endorsing the Strategy, invited States and international organizations to take into account these principles and guidelines when planning the management and development of fisheries and encouraged States, international and regional organizations to cooperate with the Director-General of FAO in the preparation of periodic reports of the Committee on Fisheries and FAO's governing bodies upon progress achieved in implementing the Strategy.

18. Six other Resolutions regarding various aspects of fisheries management and development were also adopted by the Conference. These Resolutions called for the greater use of fish and fish products in food aid programmes; called for greater priority to fishery investment projects; requested intensified action to protect fish resources against pollution; proposed the proclamation of an International Year of the Fisherman; recommended increased support for the development of fisheries in land-locked countries; and called for the further promotion of TCDC and ECDC in fisheries.

IV. Implications of the Programmes of Action for the Mediterranean region

19. The following components of the Programmes of Action are relevant to the Mediterranean region.

Programme I: Planning, Management and Development of fisheries

Advisory Services

20. This is a world-wide service to assist countries in planning management and development of fisheries in both marine and inland waters. It is intended to assist governments in obtaining essential data and information for development planning and includes the ongoing EEZ Programme funded by Norway, the services of the FRV Fridtjof Nansen and the updating of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Species Identification Sheets for Fishery Purposes.

Regional Collaboration

21. This is concerned with the strengthening of regional and sub-regional collaboration in fisheries management through such bodies as the GFCM. A Project Proposal for technical support to the GFCM is attached as Annex 1.

Training

22. This is to build up national capabilities by a series of workshops and training courses in such skills as development planning and management.

Programme II: The Development of Small-Scale Fisheries

23. At present, we have no regional small-scale fisheries project in the GFCM area. A Project proposal is being formulated by FAO and will be circulated to GFCM member Governments, for comment, in due course.

Programme III: Aquaculture Development

24. A Mediterranean Regional Aquaculture Project for the Mediterranean (MEDRAP) has been operating for some years, headquartered in Tunis, with UNDP funding through 1986. To complement this project, recently the Italian Government has agreed to finance, through FAO, pilot projects in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia with a training centre in Italy which will be open to all participating countries in MEDRAP, at a total cost of about US\$ 3 million.

Programme IV: International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products

25. With regard to the Arabic speaking countries in the Mediterranean, a Project Proposal for a Regional Fish Marketing Information Service for Arab Countries (INFOSAMAK) has been prepared and UNDP has agreed, in principle, to finance a preparatory phase of this project. A formulation mission may be visiting the countries this autumn.

26. In the meantime, some countries may wish to participate in the Regional Fish Marketing Information Service for Africa (INFOPECHE) which has recently become operational and will disseminate information in English and French.

Programme V: Promotion of the Role of Fisheries in Alleviating Under-Nutrition

27. With funding from Norway, a one-year preparatory phase has commenced to identify specific activities to be undertaken under this Programme.

V. Action requested by the Council

28. The Council is invited to comment upon the above elements of the Programmes of Action.

FAO FISHERY PROJECT PROPOSAL

1. TITLE: Technical Support to the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean
- RECIPIENT COUNTRIES: Member States of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Romania, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia)
- DONOR CONTRIBUTION: US\$ 1 million
- DURATION: Five years (1985-89)

II. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

Generally speaking, assessment and management investigations conducted by coastal countries are seriously insufficient. This results in a poor appreciation of opportunities for - or obstacles to - fishery development and priorities in development plans as well as of management needs and, more generally, in deficiencies and weaknesses in national fishery policies. Progress has nevertheless been achieved in recent years through the national activities promoted and coordinated by the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, as well as through the investigations on resource evaluation and surveys conducted by various national UNDP/FAO projects.

However, progress is still too slow and fragile. National administrations urgently need outside assistance to strengthen technical capabilities of their staff, upgrade their working methods and programmes and develop their collaboration. This support is most urgently required for appraisal of development possibilities and appropriate management processes. There is a very basic need for the collection and analysis of proper fishery data, especially in the inshore fishery sector and fisheries socio-economy in general, as the quality of the data basis directly affects the whole process of the formulation of adequate fishery development plans.

The Mediterranean has very few stock assessment people and lacks nearly totally of socio-economics skills applied to fisheries. On the other hand, there is a wealth of fisheries officers and pure marine biologists that could usefully be trained in stock assessment and get the basis of fisheries economy while this field needs a particular back-up immediately. As a consequence training courses in resource evaluation and fishery economics should be organized to strengthen the technical competence of national research teams. The activity of regional and sub-regional working parties should also be intensified to stimulate and coordinate national resources studies and to provide junior scientists sufficient opportunities to get fully familiar with new resource assessment methodologies as well as essential economic aspects of fisheries.

The development of socio-economic analysis on fishery development and management alternatives and goals, on the resource allocation among various national groups of fishermen or between countries fishing the same stocks, or economic analysis on the profitability of certain development projects have been indicated as priority activities by the Mediterranean countries.

Finally, training and manpower development has always been recognized by the Mediterranean countries as a crucial factor for the rational development of Mediterranean fisheries. For many countries, it is impossible or economically unjustified to set up and maintain training facilities likely to satisfy all their needs, especially in sectors such as fishery statistics, stock assessment and fisheries economy, fishing and fish technology and fishery management.

In summary, the immediate objectives to be reached in the Mediterranean area would be to largely upgrade the capabilities of coastal countries to fully use the available resource through adequate management and development strategies by:

- (i) promoting socio-economic analysis of fisheries development and management alternatives oriented to the formulation of appropriate national fisheries policies;
- (ii) stimulating and assisting in accurate assessment of fish resources, in particular through the strengthening of regional collaboration;
- (iii) assisting coastal countries to upgrade their national systems for the collection and analysis of basic fishery data.

III. PURPOSE

The immediate objectives of the Project will be:

1. To help Mediterranean and Black Sea countries to achieve the rational utilization of their marine and brackishwater resources and increase the information data base necessary for making appropriate decisions for the development and management of fisheries.
2. To provide technical support to the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

IV. WORKPLAN

Activity 1. Improvement of Fisheries Data

Generating improved statistical data for management purposes through more direct contact with the member countries. Core personnel can provide an additional link between the GFCM (the management body) and member countries indicating relevant data to be collected and assisting member countries in its collection and analysis.

The Project will provide assistance, namely through the services of its stock assessment expert/statistician and consultants, to countries requesting it, for the collection and processing of statistical data. Special emphasis will be placed on socio-economic data and data on coastal fishery in general. The Project will aim at a long term improvement of data quality by promoting more effective use of the data and better understanding of the reasons why the data is needed.

Activity 2. Fisheries Development/Management Planning with Special Reference to the Regulation of Effort

The Mediterranean demersal resources are heavily overfished in many areas and their utilization is far from rational. On many occasions, Mediterranean and Black Sea countries requested GFCM to consider the problems of fisheries regulation in the area and requested

assistance to evaluate and overcome them, especially in consideration of the problems of effort control and coordinated development of the littoral resources by small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. The Project will provide direct assistance in this field to the coastal countries and the GFCM, as well as training of national expertise using its own expertise and consultants. In addition, the Project should provide assistance to the countries of the region for the identification and formulation of relevant fishery development/management projects in response to their immediate needs. It could, in particular, participate in identification missions for development of underexploited resources.

Two workshops will be organized, and hopefully three if a complementary funding can be found in consideration of the number of countries concerned and the languages used in the region. The Committee on Resource Management of the GFCM would constitute the ideal forum for discussions on common issues and would be the controlling GFCM body for this activity.

Activity 3. Assessment of Coastal Inshore Resources

In spite of a critical level of overexploitation in many areas of the Mediterranean, coastal resources have a major economic importance and support an artisanal fishery which is hardly assessed but the economic importance of which is at least equal to that of offshore fisheries.

The Project should place emphasis on the collection of socio-economic data - one workshop will be organized and hopefully two if complementary funding could be found. The GFCM sub-regional technical consultations on stock assessment would provide adequate fora for relevant discussions and additional on-the-job training for nationals.

Activity 4. Rational Utilization of the Littoral Zone

The GFCM has repeatedly insisted on the necessity to promote a better and coordinated utilization of the littoral zone, the main source of biological productivity and of catches through aquaculture and fishing. This implies a coordination of fisheries and aquaculture programmes and the Project will provide assistance at request and promote better understanding through training.

Under this activity, the Project will work in close collaboration with the Regional Mediterranean Aquaculture Development Project (MEDRAP).

Activity 5. Training

The Project will provide for on-the-job training through visits to the countries by experts. In addition fellowships are planned for the last four years of the Project. Their orientation will depend on the availability of local expertise to carry out the various activities. Three workshops are planned and two more if additional funds are made available.

ANNEX 2

Small-Scale Fisheries Technical Support Unit in the
General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

PROJECT PROPOSAL

- I. TITLE: Small-scale Fisheries Technical Support Unit to the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- RECIPIENT COUNTRIES: Member States bordering the southern and eastern Mediterranean
- DONOR CONTRIBUTION: US\$ 2 000 000
- DURATION: Five years (1985-89)

II. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The countries bordering the southern and eastern coasts of the Mediterranean Sea and island States and dependencies surrounded by its waters have a long history of fishing. The expertise of the specialized traditional fisheries has been exported worldwide in some instances. Many of the countries have developed their fisheries and invested in offshore and specialized commercial fleets. However, for those fishermen and their communities who have been by-passed by the commercialization phases of development, there remains only the small-scale traditional methodologies and techniques which permit them only to subsist for the most part and their efforts barely meet the needs of the consumers and markets inland, if at all. The fishermen themselves have the capacity to expand, though often limited access to credit, and little opportunity to learn or practice improved methods. Governments of the countries and the departments responsible for the fisheries resources have, for many years, directed their attention to the commercial fisheries sector as a major contributor to the food supply and a national income contributor. However, in recent years, the small-scale fisheries and traditional coastal communities, having a considerable labour force and consumer population, have become a source of concern to the governments as they represent a considerable portion of the national population less privileged than others and in real need of support and services.

With over 6 000 km of coast and widely dispersed small-scale fisheries communities whose access to appropriate training facilities is limited, it would be impracticable to establish individual national institutions to meet their needs, both from the point of justifiable investment and logistically. However, at the national level it is feasible to seek to strengthen the extension services of the fisheries departments where they exist, and to establish others where the need is foreseen.

Within the region there are established national training facilities where specialist training may be given in a wide variety of disciplines. To reach the fishing communities and introduce appropriate techniques and technology by instruction, demonstration and advice on the provision of credit would be a function of the national extension services. These may be reinforced by a regional mobile extension team core group of selected specialists who will work with and strengthen the national teams as required. This core group will ensure that national teams are kept abreast of developments and improved technology and will assist in the development and application of teaching methods to be applied at the village and field level.

The Council, at its Sixteenth Session, noted that assistance to the small-scale fisheries sector had received little support from the donors during the preceding years, remaining at some US\$ 250 000 per annum. Recognition was also given to the need for support to this sector both at this time and at the World Conference on Fisheries

Management and Development held in June/July 1984. Countries bordering the southern and eastern parts of the Mediterranean face a special situation in many of their small-scale fisheries with respect to the brackish and salt water lagoons which, in many instances, are extensive. Whilst considerable attention has been given to aquaculture associated with these lagoons, from which seed stock is harvested in many cases, little attention has been given to the traditional communities of coastal fishermen who also fish these, as well as the inshore coastal waters, and which can either be affected by inshore water reclamation and aquaculture development or become a key element in the overall development if harmonized solutions are to be found. The efficiency of the fishing methods that have been adopted could in many cases be improved, whilst in some areas highly developed methods have been elaborated by the small-scale fisheries and could be applied with benefit elsewhere in the Mediterranean. The utilization of lagoon resources by differing interests has given rise to concern and calls for development and management measures to be considered to protect the interest of communities whose livelihood depends on these resources and to make full use of the possible synergetic effects of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.

It is proposed that with the establishment of a regional core group with an advisory and coordinating function, designed to assist and strengthen national fisheries administration field units, small-scale fishing communities and the fishermen themselves could benefit from improved extension services and opportunities created by this group for technical cooperation between the countries and exchange training facilities and field demonstration courses designed to facilitate the introduction of proved appropriate fishing and fish technology.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to upgrade the status of the small-scale fisheries communities in the region and improve the standard of living of the fishermen and their families. A small technical assistance group working through national extension teams in collaboration with the fishing communities, will provide essential expertise needed to bring about appropriate technological innovation in support of these aims.

IV. WORKPLAN

The programme consists of three modules which, whilst appearing discrete, are interdependent on each other for the development of the small-scale fisheries in an integrated manner. However, recognizing that community development activities are of a longer term nature, extension training and technology activities are of a more immediate relevance, have greater short term impact potential and may become widely spread in their application.

Activity I - Community Development

Most of the fishing communities in the southern and eastern areas of the Mediterranean have a very strong social structure. The effect of development efforts has seldom been considered for long-term impact or evaluated in respect of structural or social change resulting from action taken. In the lagoon fisheries particularly, little information appears to be available on the sensitive issues that might arise from utilization of the resource by different interests. A small team of specialists will, in collaboration with national teams, study selected fishing communities for past effects of development efforts and activities and, through consultation with these communities and others so far not affected, determine the acceptability of development options and proposals that might be supported in those communities. The teams will also establish baseline data and criteria for monitoring and impact assessment for future evaluation of development activities and which could be used by the coastal countries for the elaboration of research and development planning.

Activity II - Training and Extension

Many of the national fisheries administrations either lack effective extension services or personnel or would benefit from both technical and administration or directional strengthening. This may be undertaken through the activities of a small group of experts carrying out on-the-job training and in collective group training of key personnel in selected fisheries authorities, with their collaboration. There will be close links maintained with the expertise made available under Activity III to provide the specific technical inputs for instruction in the specialist fields, so strengthening the awareness of the extensionist's needs in relation to those of the communities he serves.

Activity III - Fish/Fishing Technology and Training

Many of the fishing communities have developed or adapted techniques in fishing and fish handling that in some cases are highly successful. In other circumstances, however, the adaptations have been adopted but lack efficiency or effectiveness of which the users are not aware. Part of the technical assistance team will undertake reviews of the methods used in the capture fisheries and processing fields and will identify those methods proved to be successful, recommend modifications where appropriate and, taking advantage of the opportunities for technical cooperation and the exchange of information and appropriate technology, facilitate the application of the most suitable methods by arranging for exchange visits to be made between members of fishing communities where successful technology is practiced and those where introduction may be beneficial.

OUTLINE BUDGETING REQUIREMENTS EXPRESSED IN U.S. DOLLARS

ACTIVITY I (Community development pilot activity)		1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Total						
Fisheries Development Officer	(20 m/m)	135 000	(8) 54 000	(3) 20 250	(3) 20 250	(3) 20 250
Socio-economist	(24 m/m)	162 000	(6) 40 500	(12) 81 000	(6) 40 500	
Community workers (local Govt. costs)						
Consultants	(5 m/m)	45 000	(1) 7 500	(1) 7 500	(2) 15 000	(2) 15 000
Travel, equipment and support costs		35 000	10 000	8 000	7 000	5 000
		377 000	104 500	116 750	75 250	40 250
ACTIVITY II (Training and extension)						
Fisheries development officer	(35 m/m)	236 250	(3) 20 250	(8) 54 000	(8) 54 000	(8) 54 000
Extension and training officer	(48 m/m)	324 000	(6) 40 500	(12) 81 000	(12) 81 000	(6) 40 500
Consultants	(15 m/m)	112 500	(3) 22 500	(3) 22 500	(3) 22 500	(3) 22 500
Workshops/group training (1 or 2 p.a.)		120 000	24 000	24 000	24 000	24 000
Travel, equipment and support costs		94 500	30 000	15 000	15 000	19 500
		887 250	137 250	196 500	196 500	160 500
ACTIVITY III (Technology/training)						
Fisheries development officer	(5 m/m)	33 750	(1) 6 750	(1) 6 750	(1) 6 750	(1) 6 750
Fisheries technical officer	(60 m/m)	405 000	(12) 81 000	(12) 81 000	(12) 81 000	(12) 81 000
Consultants	(5 m/m)	45 000	(1) 7 500	(1) 7 500	(1) 7 500	(2) 15 000
Group training and non-staff exchange travel		108 500	-	7 500	18 000	33 000
Travel, equipment and support costs		143 500	63 000	14 000	15 500	25 500
		735 750	158 250	116 750	128 750	161 250
Sub-total						
		2 000 000	400 000	430 000	400 500	362 000
Grand total						

N.B. The development officer's time spreads through all three activities.
 Heavier expenditure in year two is envisaged as first year permits preparatory work for the most part.

APPENDIX H

Statement by the Italian Delegation

We are proposing a plan of action in the central Mediterranean^{1/} to promote and support coordinated and joint research on management oriented evaluation of fisheries resources by two EEC member countries, France and Italy, with three North African countries: Algeria, Libya and Tunisia, and the State of Malta. The action should lead to a pilot-project on demersal resources without taking into consideration whether they are fished by these nations independently or not, i.e., shared, and whether, within each country, the resources are actually caught by artisanal (or sport) fishermen or by trawlers.

Its aim is to reach, in five years, a satisfactory knowledge of the present state of exploitation of demersal resources and of the present situation of fishing effort in the considered area, of the distribution in space and time of both the resources and the fishing activity and to collect and process all the information needed to forecast what the consequences would be of any management measure taken by the countries bordering the area.

The plan should produce a common scientific knowledge through cooperation of national scientific institutions.

The methods proposed for data collection are trawl surveys associated with deck-sampling and the set-up of a sample-survey system for the collection of catch and effort statistics and biological samples of landings.

The European Economic Community (as DG XIV and DG XII) and FAO (as GFCM) should promote the plan jointly, sharing the roles of promotion and coordination. Advantage should be taken of the supra-national nature of both institutions to allow free circulation of research or chartered vessels and of research workers in the study area and in the countries concerned. Better research vessels should be devoted to operations to ensure comparability of results. A first preparatory year should concentrate on an inventory of past research and on programmes being carried out or planned by the above countries on a national or bilateral basis. During the same period, the greatest effort should be put on sound statistical planning of data collection.

A common data base should be created. After three years of data collection and one year of treatment, it seems quite reasonable to foresee an appreciable step forward in scientific knowledge as work-material for decision-makers.

The present proposal stems from a thorough consideration of the following points:

1. quite apart from the national state of fleets and resources, the situation of data requirements for scientific understanding is practically the same in all countries bordering the central Mediterranean;
2. that is so because objective difficulties are alike: number of species, low quantity and high unit value, number of landing points, different gears, low organization of sector infrastructures, late intervention of research because of cultural underestimate of its role, etc.;

^{1/} The term central Mediterranean is here referred to as an area larger than the one adopted by GFCM for the purpose of its Technical Consultations on Stock Assessment in the Central Mediterranean

3. a striking convergency is reached by scientists dealing with problems of stock assessment in the Mediterranean, and especially so in the central Mediterranean, on analyses of the situation and approach to overcome them (see, e.g., pages 20-23 of the seventh meeting report of Scientific and Technical Com. of DG XIV; its "Fano report"; R. Jones' paper on "Problems of Stock Assessment" as document GFCM/XVII/84/Inf.3, February 1984; the report of the First Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Central Mediterranean, held in Tunis in 1982, being FAO Fisheries Report No. 266);
4. many efforts are already carried out by all countries bordering the central Mediterranean, but in a rather non-coordinated way, thus ineffective in the long term;
5. an FAO regional project cannot start since years for lack of funding, possibly because of a tendency to promote and ask for bilateral technical assistance, rather than working under the umbrella of international bodies;
6. all the features of fisheries in the Mediterranean known to this Council are brought to the extreme in the central Mediterranean from the political, social and biological standpoints. Hence, this area seems to be the most interesting to try an EEC-FAO action plan for coordinated research on fisheries resources;
7. very recently, a meeting of Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and other Mediterranean countries in Malta ended with a statement asking for deeper relationship with EEC. This could be a sign of inversion of the past tendency to ignore and push back any approach from EEC, namely in the fisheries sector. The positive attitude of North African countries and Malta toward GFCM-FAO is out of discussion.

Some general remarks and considerations to conclude this first proposal of our delegation:

1. such exercise has a reasonable hope of not being frustrating for the scientists involved, as both countries with under- and over-developed fleets do have now laws and means to enforce management measures at the level of precision and control allowed and required by the foreseeable knowledge to be gained from such exercise;
2. some form of support from scientists outside the study area should be considered, possibly through DG XII of EEC which has developed effective scientists' exchange in some research sectors, but not in fisheries science and through FAO (experts, consultants);
3. since research work in Italy is concentrating, in many cases, either on research strictly speaking or on help to the Administration in: the control of fishing effort in the Mediterranean, the use of little and/or poor data in stock assessment, the improvement of national fisheries statistics.

The Institute of Mazara del Vallo, a small Sicilian town, facing the channel between Sicily and North Africa harbouring the biggest trawler fleet in the Mediterranean, is now involved in a programme along the suggested lines (T.-S- + C.f. and biological sampling) and is being developed, as training of research team and scientific tools, toward this end. Convergency of EEC and national financing has been granted for our programme, but biological sampling of demersal resources is difficult and expensive in the Mediterranean and, more important, area coverage of trawl-surveys is bound to be unsatisfactory unless some agreement is reached with other coastal countries, which seems unlikely unless an authoritative multinational body comes into the picture.

4. the Italian delegation would obviously be glad to see its proposal thought about by the present meeting and by the S.T.C.F. of DG XIV of the EEC, where it was submitted recently and to have the Mazara del Vallo Institute chosen as one of the regional centres for such a programme.

The Italian delegation would also like to propose that another pilot project be started in the Adriatic within the same plan of action and under the same umbrella, but on the resources of small pelagics. The amount of knowledge already collected on these resources and in that Mediterranean sub-region is richer and older. Therefore, higher is probably the need for urgent coordination. The methods proposed for data collection are echo-surveys and eggs-larvae surveys on the one hand, and the set-up of a sample-survey system for the collection of statistical (i.e., catch and effort) and biological data from the commercial fleets on the other hand. As before, the proposal of a sampling approach for the collection of statistical data would probably be valid for a fraction of the industrial fishery only; hence, high attention should be paid, during the preparatory phase, to the possibility of a mixed approach, e.g., sampling could be applied to the private sector in Yugoslavia, but it could be easier to adopt a census approach with the public sector.

Biological sampling on landings, conversely, is probably to be urgently recommended for adoption or continuation on both sides of the Adriatic sea, but within a jointly agreed statistical design. Some of the main reasons advocated for proposing a pilot project in the central Mediterranean for demersal resources do apply, with the obvious or the explained differences, to the proposal of a pilot project on small pelagics in the Adriatic, within the same plan of action from FAO.

A major reason should now be stressed for both.

Taking into consideration on a gross average sub-regional scale these two groups of resources, demersal in the central Mediterranean and small pelagics in the Adriatic, in the light of the present state of our knowledge something seems still possible to be done for assessing the state of such resources before it is too late to manage their exploitation in a positive sense.

By "positive", we mean a common effort of the countries involved in their exploitation to promote rational and coordinated development of fishing as opposed to a "negative" sense to be identified with a merely "national" approach to assessment and management, which could very well go toward reduction of fishing effort in some cases or its increase in other cases, but outside a common frame of knowledge and agreement.

These two groups of resources in these two sub-regions seem to represent somehow unique occasions, in the Mediterranean Sea, to test a will of scientific cooperation between coastal countries adopting the strategy of small steps or, if you like, as Baudelaire said once "la loi universelle de la gradualité, la stratégie du petit-à-petit" rather than "en attendant Godot", as we would find ourselves at the next session of GFCM to comment again, in an identical situation, on items 5 and 7.1 of the Agenda.

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	GFCM/XVII/84/14 July 1984
	联合国粮食及农业组织	
	FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS	
	ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE	
	ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION	

Item 7.2 of the
Provisional Agenda

GENERAL FISHERIES COUNCIL FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM)

Seventeenth Session

Rome, 17-21 September 1984

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL AQUACULTURE PROJECT (MEDRAP)

On 1 January 1984, the MEDRAP Project entered a new phase thanks to the approval by UNDP of a budget of US\$ 940 000 covering a period of 30 months. This makes it possible to increase the activities started during the preparatory phase on one hand and, on the other hand, to mobilize further financing especially from other countries in the region (Italy, France, etc.).

1. PREPARATORY PHASE

1.1 Objectives

The preparatory phase which was executed from 1980 to 1983 had as its initial aims: identification of regional priorities and actions to be undertaken; choice of a host country for the project headquarters, and that for the counterpart agencies responsible for conducting operations in the field: at the end of 1981 the UNDP also requested that some activities proposed for the main phase be initiated and that discussions with other possible financing sources be started.

1.2 Contributions

The main financing for this phase came from the United Nations Development Programme through its regional offices for the European and Arab countries.

FAO provided an additional contribution for the three participating countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Syria) through its Technical Cooperation Programme.

Lastly, France and the EEC also contributed to training and consultancy activities.

1.3 Activities

During the preparatory phase the regional project conducted two types of urgent activities:

- identification and beginning of establishment of the first pilot projects in the participating countries;
- initiation of training actions.

Because of their greater need for outside assistance these activities concerned mainly the countries in the southern Mediterranean, especially Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

1.4 Results

(a) Pilot projects

During this phase four countries received aid from MEDRAP for the establishment of their pilot projects.

- Tunisia: National Centre for Aquaculture Development and Extension at Monastir;
- Algeria: Project for Development of Lakes Mellah and Oubeirah at El Kala;
- Yugoslavia: Marine Farm of Limski Kanal at Rovinj;
- Cyprus: Marine Station of Paphos.

The projects received assistance mainly in the form of consultancy and training in the case of the first two, and as equipment and training for the other two.

At the same time, five other projects were identified in the other participating countries and will be developed during the 1984-86 phase.

(b) Training

At regional level the project organized a training session on hatcheries, a study voyage in Italy, and a study voyage in the south of France. A total of 25 persons benefited by these initial training activities.

In addition, training in the field was conducted by the project headquarters team and consultants.

(c) National development programmes

Because of the small headquarters staff (2 persons), the countries' requests for assistance in programming could only be met through contributions of the FAO/TCP programme. In that way about twenty consultant months could be used, which made it possible to submit a national action plan in Tunisia, Syria and Morocco. The plan will be established in close liaison with MEDRAP.

(d) Reports

A total of about 60 different reports was supplied, or 1 500 text pages. The project resources made it possible to publish and disseminate them, but strengthening is needed for the main phase.

1.5 Conclusion

The MEDRAP project's preparatory phase allowed testing of the different types of training suggested for the main phase. This made it possible to check their advantages for attainment of the established training targets and to have better knowledge of the problems stemming from the organization of these activities. Progress was also made in the establishment of pilot projects, some of which are already operational (Yugoslavia), while others are being set up (Tunisia, Algeria).

Thus the transition to the present phase (1984-86) took place without major difficulties except for delays in certain activities due to the late arrival of support personnel.

2. PRESENT PHASE (1984-86)

The present phase includes eight urgent objectives which can be grouped under four headings:

- to provide training at regional level;
- to assist the pilot projects established in the participating countries;

- to develop exchange of data and information;
- to establish firm region-wide cooperation between the countries in the region.

2.1 Training Operations

Training actions will be expanded, thanks not only to an increase of UNDP contributions but also to a large additional contribution from the Italian Government. They will include:

- specialized training organized on the basis of two to eight week training sessions in the different fields concerning marine aquaculture, i.e., hatchery, fry fishing and transport, fattening techniques, pathology, etc.

Eight training sessions of this type have already been programmed:

- technical training of cadres and technicians directly involved in production operations through long-term courses to be taken over by the Italian Government at the Policoro Centre connected with the ITTICA Valdagri fish farm. Three 7-month courses receiving 20 participants have been planned from 1984 to 1987.
- field training using project expert or consultant missions.

A total of more than 100 cadres and technicians are to be covered by these operations, as well as a number of executive personnel.

2.2 Assistance to Pilot Projects

The assistance granted earlier during the preparatory phase to the first pilot projects will be expanded and diversified in both the consultancy and training sectors, and in additional equipment in some countries.

Six new projects will be implemented during this new phase, i.e., shellfish farming at Dubrovnik (Yugoslavia) and Nador (Morocco); integrated aquaculture at Missolongi (Greece); polyculture at Raswa (Egypt); intensive aquaculture at Latakia (Syria); and lagoon aquaculture at Izmir (Turkey).

Some projects should also receive aid reinforced through financing to MEDRAP (Italian cooperation) or through coordinated operations with bilateral assistance (EEC, France, etc.).

2.3 Regional Information Network

It is planned to develop a regional information network covering:

- a quarterly information bulletin on Mediterranean aquaculture;
- an up-to-date bibliography on aquaculture techniques;
- a technical data bank attached to the FAO AQUIS network grouping all available data on aquaculture farms in the region.

The success of this system obviously depends not only on the efforts made by the project personnel but also and especially on the national teams.

2.4 Coordination and Cooperation with Other Assistance

The MEDRAP Project should also try to coordinate its action with that of other types of assistance in the region, especially with countries not receiving UNDP aid (Italy, France, Spain, EEC) and to cooperate with them in the future.

This cooperation can take different forms from transfer of financing funds (trust funds) intended either to increase the impact of some activities or to develop new operations, or even simple cooperation in the field such as coordinated intervention in a project or training operation. This procedure has already been started with Italy and France, and discussions are under way with Spain and the EEC.

Lastly, a fundamental aspect of the project is to ensure permanent regional cooperation even after the termination of outside financing (UNDP). A takeover by existing regional structures either at the fishery or agriculture level is already being sought for this purpose.

2.5 Consultative Committee

In October 1983, a first meeting of the Project Consultative Committee took place in Tunis. This meeting, comprising representatives of the UNDP, UNEP, FAO (including GFCM) as well as most of the national coordinators (8 out of 11), made it possible to identify in detail the objectives, activities and resources necessary for the main phase. It was planned to organize one to two meetings of this Committee every year extending participation to other countries which have encouraged the Project's actions.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The present phase is already well under way. In six months, three training sessions and two study trips grouping a total of 60 participants have been organized by the Project in collaboration with the counterpart institutions and with outside financial support; about 20 expert and consultant missions have been sent to several participating countries, and part of the equipment is already being delivered. Only the information component has not yet been started due to lack of time and personnel, but an effort will be undertaken for that purpose by the end of 1984 by strengthening of the headquarters team (two associate experts and one United Nations volunteer).

Solutions have not yet been found for two problems:

- reactivation of the GFCM Cooperative Programme of Research on Aquaculture (COPRAQ), which should receive a financing line in the MEDRAP budget; as that programme had been eliminated because of UNDP fund cuts, COPRAQ has been unable to hold a meeting for five years;
- expansion of MEDRAP requested by Bulgaria and Portugal, which can only be done provided the governments of those countries submit an official request to the UNDP for this purpose.

The Council is therefore invited to:

- express its views on the operations conducted during the preliminary phase, the activities now under way and the future lines of the Project;
- suggest ways and means likely to strengthen the Project's present and future possibilities;
- suggest solutions likely to reactivate COPRAQ and to establish close coordination between it and the MEDRAP project.

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